

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**MEETING NOTICE – SAVE THE DATES!
NOVEMBER 14-15, 2002
WASHINGTON, DC**

The Advisory Committee on Private International Law (ACPIL) will hold a general **review of the “state of the world” concerning private international law** on Thursday and Friday, November 14-15, 2002 in Washington, D.C. Additional study group meetings for particular topics, to which all would be welcome, may be held on Saturday morning, November 16. Space will be limited, so please advise us as soon as possible if you plan to attend.

As in the past, we will combine discussion topics and reports on selected international projects. The aim of the meeting is both to impart information and provide time for open discussion, so we hope you will participate actively.

The topics for this meeting tentatively will include (but not necessarily in this order):

- International developments that impact PIL, including globalization, the evolving role of the U.S. in international legal affairs; proposed changes in international organizations; and the balance between multilateralism and the role of regional bodies, such as the OAS, EU, OHADA and others. Developments from bar associations, NGOs and other organizations will also be covered.
 - International dispute resolution: the on-going saga of the Hague Conference draft convention on jurisdiction and enforcement of foreign judgments; UNCITRAL’s new model law on commercial conciliation; and possible changes in the New York Convention on enforcement of foreign arbitral awards.
- Committee endorsement will be sought on the new UNCITRAL model law on conciliation, which will be taken up as part of a uniform law project by NCCUSL.
- Emerging electronic commerce law: current developments and road blocks; free market based laws vs. regulation of commerce; proposals for an omnibus protocol to amend some existing multilateral treaties; cross-border securities law projects – can or should they be limited to computer-based transactions only; and do economics of computer-based industries set limitations on development of the private law of cyberspace?
 - Family law and emerging international process: bilateral and multilateral proposals on child support and protection of incapacitated adults; implementation of the Hague Conventions on child adoption and abduction; transfrontier access; the 1996 Hague convention on protection of children; and federal-state issues affecting cross-border family interests.

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- International Franchising: completion of the UNIDROIT model national law on disclosure; effect on globalization of business entities, cross-border financing and corporate management.

Committee endorsement will be sought on the UNIDROIT model law on disclosure in cross-border franchising

- Commercial finance reform: the effect of economics-based private law reform, including opening up developing countries' access to Western capital markets. Completion of three PIL projects on cross-border secured interest financing (see below). A fourth project is expected to be completed on securities at the Hague in December. In addition, UNCITRAL is continuing its work on both international project finance and secured finance, and UNIDROIT has started its project on transborder security interests in securities and global shares.

Committee endorsement will be sought on the 2001 UNCITRAL Convention on accounts receivable finance; the 2001 UNIDROIT-ICAO Convention on mobile equipment finance; and the 2002 OAS CIDIP-VI Model national law on secured finance, all of which follow similar commercial law and capital markets fundamentals.

Advance topics for a Spring ACPIL meeting:

- Outer space finance: negotiations on rules for private law financing in outer space, and the relationship of the 2001 Cape Town (Unidroit) convention on mobile equipment finance to the existing UN Outer Space treaty system and public international law.
- The Hague judgements convention and international dispute resolution: update and prospects for 2003; developments in alternative dispute resolution, including online and other e-commerce related actions.
- Maritime and transportation law: startup of the latest effort in a 80 year (or more) quest for a unified carriage of goods by sea law; the possibility and pitfalls of a multimodal treaty; and the 2002 OAS Inter-American roadway bill of lading.
- International securities transactions: the Hague convention on conflicts rules for securities intermediaries in cross-border transfers; start-up of the Unidroit project on harmonization of substantive rules for cross-border securities, and possible private law rules for global shares.
- International insolvency law reform: relation to goals of the World Bank, the IMF, the ADB and others; private law concepts of reorganization applied to sovereign debt; incorporation of the 1997 UNCITRAL model law into US bankruptcy law.
- International project finance: continuing progress of the late 20th century movement toward public-private sector partnerships for infrastructure development, especially in developing countries.
- OAS-sponsored CIDIP-VII conference: proposals for PIL topics

Recommendations for additional topics are welcome.

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Administrative matters

The meetings will take place at the International Law Institute (ILI) at 1615 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. in the main conference room from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, and from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Friday. As noted above, space for the meeting will be limited, so please let our new assistant, Cherise Reid, know as early as possible if you plan to attend, by fax at (202) 776-8482 or phone at 776-8420. We will need your current address, company or other affiliations if any, and contact numbers, including email.

For information on any of the topics referred to, please contact Jeff Kovar on 202-776-8342, Mary Helen Carlson on 776-8425, or Hal Burman at 776-8421. We will provide websites for documents on the topics, and hard copies on request. Comments on any topic will be welcome from those that cannot attend.

We will have information on several hotels in the immediate area of the ILI (Dupont Circle) which will offer rates for this meeting. For other information on meeting arrangements or the ILI, call Kiril Glavev or Don Wallace, Jr. at 202-483-3036, fax 483-3029.

For future notices, please provide us with current email and fax numbers when you reply. If you do not plan to attend the meeting, it would still be very helpful if you could provide these contact numbers.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington!

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